

MAU-3007

1 April 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Austrian Bureau - March 1983

1. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Austrian Bureau's Russian program got off the ground this month as our newest monitor, [] began processing material from selected Soviet journals. For the month, we filed 31,420 words of copy from the Soviet journals.

STAT

2. In another new development, the bureau began a 1-month trial subscription to the Austrian Press Agency feed of East European English-language press services. We concluded that the Tirana ATA, Bucharest Agerpres and Sofia BTA received over APA appeared to be a good backstop to our regular RTT coverage. The APA subscription has been extended through the end of September, when a further evaluation of the usefulness of the service will be made.

3. The virtual disappearance of the Belgrade Tanjug Serbo-Croatian first program or general service after 21 March necessitated a major realignment of bureau and BBC coverage of the Yugoslav media. BBC logs indicated a dramatic decline in the substantial and in-depth reporting of the first program, with a corresponding increase in shorter, newsy second program items. As a consequence, Austrian Bureau found itself processing more and more of the 'missing' items from its regular radio and press coverage. Effective 5 April, the BBC will temporarily assume responsibility for Belgrade Domestic Service coverage from the 0200 GMT through the 1300 GMT broadcasts.

4. The bureau's new Austrian TV "teletext" service-- through which noncopyrighted information ranging from news to weather, aircraft arrivals/departures, exchange rates and cooking and chess tips can be displayed on a TV screen--has already scored several scoops over other bureau-monitored sources. FCS has christened the new service Vienna ORF

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Teletext in German. We are considering buying a commercial VCR so the "raw copy" for processed items will not be lost when ORF updates its news.

5. In the dead of the cold and snowy night of 26/27 March, Austria and the rest of Europe switched to Summer Time. We are now 2 hours ahead of GMT. For the first time, the Yugoslavs also introduced daylight savings time, which allows the bureau to continue to close at night at 2300 instead of 2400 as was the case in previous summers.

B. Communications

Start up of the new Austrian Bureau primary communications circuit has been delayed from mid-March to early May because of the increased leadtime needed by QEI, Inc. to manufacture the tone keyer/converter equipment. Meanwhile, bureau technicians are putting the finishing touches on the Embassy telephone room interface equipment for the new circuit. The router for the new circuit will be RUESFV.

C. Lateral Services

The assassination of the Turkish ambassador to Yugoslavia on 9 March gave added importance to the bureau's television monitoring program, as Belgrade TV showed extensive shots of the scene as well as a hospital interview with attending doctors. In addition to supplying Headquarters with copies of the Belgrade tapes, as well as slightly different shots aired over Vienna and Budapest TV, copies were sent to American Embassy Ankara at its request.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Our super hardworking and harried administrative assistant, [redacted] was particularly pleased this month to welcome STAT
aboard her new assistant, [redacted] who has already STAT
proved to be a quick and able learner.

2. The bureau was notified on 25 March that our TV contractor in Belgrade, [redacted] would be re- STAT
signing in early April due to health reasons. Belgrade Em-
bassy is in the process of identifying a qualified replacement.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

1. A major breakthrough in quality of life of service at Austrian Bureau was achieved when Headquarters approved changing the bureau from an unfurnished to a furnished post. The Embassy GSO has been requested to place an order with Drexel for the first two of an eventual five households of furniture.

2. Failure to identify suitable replacements for the bureau's retired live-in custodians has necessitated continuing contractual arrangements with a daytime housekeeper and with a local guard service for a night watchman.

III. VISITS

To the Bureau

1. [] TDY, 28 February - 22 March. STAT
2. [] TDY, 23-26 March. STAT

From the Bureau

Chief Engineer [] Italy, 17-18 March. STAT

[] STAT
Chief, Austrian Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report
Non-Staff Personnel Report

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau